



STATE SENATOR TRAVIS HOLDMAN

TEEN DRIVING: REFORMING INDIANA'S GRADUATED DRIVER'S LICENSE SYSTEM

	Indiana's Former GDL Requirements	Indiana's GDL law with Changes
<i>Learner Stage</i>		
Minimum Entry Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 15 years with driver's education. ■ 16 years without driver's education. ■ No minimum age for starting classroom portion of driver's education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 15 years and 6 months with driver's education. ■ 16 years without driver's education. ■ At age 15, driver may begin classroom portion of driver's education.
Mandatory Holding Period	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2 months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6 months.
Minimum Amount of Supervised Driving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 50 (10 of which must be night time hours) with a licensed instructor or a licensed driver at least 25 years old.
<i>Probationary License Stage</i>		
Minimum Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 16 years, 1 month with driver's education. ■ 16 years, 6 months without driver's education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 16 years, 6 months with driver's education. ■ 16 years 9 months without driver's education.
Nighttime Driving Prohibited	<p>Curfew Hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Sunday - Thursday: 11 p.m. - 5 a.m. ■ Friday - Saturday: 1 a.m.- 5 a.m. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ First 180 days: 10 p.m. - 5 a.m. ■ Then: Curfew hours until age 18 ■ Exemptions include work, school and church related functions or if accompanied by a 25-year-old licensed driver.
Passenger Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No passengers for 3 months unless there is a licensed driver at least 21 years old in the passenger seat. Then there can be no more passengers than the number of seatbelts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ First 180 days: No passengers unless accompanied by a licensed instructor or licensed driver 25 years old or older. Exemptions include a sibling and/or child of the driver.
Other Important Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ None. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Prohibits person under age 18 from using any type of telecommunications device while operating a vehicle except to make a 911 call. ■ Probationary drivers will not qualify for court diversion programs.
<i>Unrestricted License at Age 18</i>		

Across the nation:

- ✓ More than 30,000 people died in accidents from 1995 to 2004 when the driver was between the ages of 15 and 17, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures;
- ✓ Drivers between the ages of 16 and 19 are four times as likely to be involved in a crash when compared to other drivers, according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety; and
- ✓ Costs of crashes involving young drivers — including emergency services, uninsured medical care and tax-supported rehabilitation programs — are estimated to be more than \$40 billion annually, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Across Indiana:

- ✓ Approximately 153 drivers between the ages of 15 and 20 were involved in a fatal collision in 2007, according to the Indiana State Police; and
- ✓ The number of fatal crashes involving teens in Indiana have dropped 7.5 percent since Indiana adopted its GDL in 1999.

Impact of Graduated Driver's License:

- ✓ States with comprehensive GDL laws see a reduction of 20 to 30 percent in the number of crashes involving teen drivers, according to the National Safety Council;
- ✓ States with five of the seven most critical GDL components in place show a 38 percent reduction in 16-year-old individuals involved in fatal crashes and a 40 percent reduction in the number of crashes involving injury;
- ✓ Indiana's proposed bill has six of the seven most critical components — excluding a provision for restrictions on wireless communication devices for all licensed drivers in the unrestricted license phase;
- ✓ The Interim Study Committee on Learner's Permits and Graduated Driver's Licenses studied potential pros and cons of strengthening Indiana's current graduated driver's license (GDL) system during the 2008 Interim. Recommended changes, as part of SB 16, are below: and
- ✓ Statistics across the nation and Indiana show motor vehicle-related incidents are a major cause of teen fatalities